

# ANNUAL REPORT 2001

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## 2001 Advisory Commission on Radioactive Waste and Decommissioning

**Senator Sharon Treat** (Chair)

**Senator W. Tom Sawyer**

**Senator Norman Ferguson**

**Clough Toppan, P.E., DHS**

**Mike Meisner, MYAPC**

**Joseph Blinick, PhD**, Maine Medical Center

**Ron Ouellette**, public member

**Richard Carey**, public member

**Representative Robert Daigle**, (vice-chair)

**Representative William R. Savage**

**Representative Peter L. Rines**

**Bob Demkowicz**, DEP

**Robert Marvinney, PhD**, DOC

**Don Hudson, PhD**, public member

**James Mitchell**, public member

**Stephen Jarrett**, public member

## ESTABLISHING LAW

The Establishing Law is:

TITLE 38: WATERS AND NAVIGATION

•CHAPTER 14-A: NUCLEAR WASTE ACTIVITY

•SUBCHAPTER I: GENERAL PROVISIONS

•§ 1453-A. Advisory Commission on Radioactive Waste and Decommissioning.

And can be seen in its entirety on the state website:

<http://janus.state.me.us/legis/statutes/38/title38sec1453-a.html>

The requirement for this report is in section 4. Meetings and Reports.

“The commission shall meet at least 4 times a year. The commission shall submit an annual report of activities to the Governor, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over natural resource matters and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over utility and energy matters by February 15th of each year.”

[1997, c. 700, §7 (amd).]

## INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the Advisory Commission on Radioactive Waste and Decommissioning, referred to as the “Commission”, is to advise the Governor, the Legislature and other pertinent state agencies and entities on matters relating to radioactive waste management and decommissioning of nuclear power plants and provide information to the public and provide opportunities for public input.

The Advisory Commission on Radioactive Waste and Decommissioning (ACORWD) remains the only State entity charged by the legislature to collect, analyze and disseminate information on all aspects of radioactive waste management. The Legislature created the Advisory Commission in 1985 as a successor

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to the Low-Level Waste Siting Commission. The Advisory Commission's purpose is "to advise the Governor and the Legislature on matters relating to radioactive waste management..."

Historically the Advisory Commission has taken leading roles in issues involving high and low level radioactive waste in Maine. Notably, the Commission took a leading role in fighting the siting of a high level radioactive waste repository in Maine. Later, the Commission was instrumental in establishing policy for dealing with low-level waste, leading to the creation of the Low-Level Waste Authority. Ultimately, with Commission endorsement, Maine negotiated a compact with the State of Texas for disposal of low-level waste and the Authority was dissolved. Currently the Commission is involved with issues dealing with the decommissioning of Maine's nuclear power plant, Maine Yankee. It has been closely involved in the decommissioning standards set by the Maine Legislature in 2000. The Commission is updated on the Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation (ISFSI) and the reactor vessel segmentation projects under way at Maine Yankee as well as security concerns for the site since September 11.

## DUTIES AND PRIORITIES OF THE ADVISORY COMMISSION ON RADIOACTIVE WASTE AND DECOMMISSIONING

### Duties of the ACORWD

1. Provide opportunities for public input and disseminate information to the general public and promote public understanding concerning the management of radioactive waste.
2. Study the management, transportation, treatment, storage and disposal of radioactive waste, including high-level and low-level radioactive waste and mixed waste, generated in this state.
3. Monitor the methods, criteria and federal timetables for siting and constructing high-level radioactive waste repositories or storage facilities.
4. Monitor the Texas siting effort and Texas low-level Radioactive Waste Disposal Compact Commission activities and, if events require, propose legislation to reinstate an in-state siting effort for the storage or disposal of low-level radioactive waste in the state.
5. Advise the Governor, the Legislature and the Department of Environmental Protection or their successors, the state's member of the Texas low-level Radioactive Waste Disposal Compact Commission and other pertinent state agencies and entities, as appropriate, on relevant findings and recommendations of the commission.
6. Receive a written report from the State's member of the Texas low-level Radioactive Waste Disposal Compact Commission within 60 days after a meeting of that Commission or an oral report from that member at the next scheduled meeting of the Advisory Commission on Radioactive Waste, whichever comes first.
7. Prepare a newsletter for the public recording developments relevant to radioactive waste issues.

### The priorities of the ACORWD

1. The decommissioning of the Maine Yankee Atomic Power Plant.
2. Study the management, transportation, treatment, storage and disposal of radioactive waste.
3. Provide opportunities for public input and disseminate information to the general public.
4. Monitoring the Texas siting effort of the Texas Compact (Texas, Maine and Vermont).
5. All remaining duties are set as equal after the first four.

The siting effort was of high priority in the past, but has since diminished due to the negative results in Texas' effort to locate a site. Current legislation in Texas has stalled the effort until the year 2003 when their session reconvenes. Monitoring the Maine Yankee Decommissioning is currently the number one

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priority of the Commission. The events of September 11, 2001 have also created a focus on the security of radioactive waste in the state.

## ACTIVITIES OF THE ACORWD TO SUPPORT ITS DUTIES

The Commission provides opportunities for public input at all its public meetings. Concerned citizens and organizations like Friends Of The Coast and the Citizen's Monitoring Network regularly voice their concerns on the issues concerning radioactive waste.

The Commission disseminates information to the general public by means of a newsletter and website. The Commission currently has a **website** located on the Department of Human Services, Bureau of Health, Division of Health Engineering, Radiation Control Program's website. The website address is:

**<http://www.maineradiationcontrol.org>**

The website has a new domain name to get you to the same site as in the past. However, the new name allows individuals searching the net to locate the commission and Maine radiation topics. The website posts reports, meeting times and topics of concern. The website also serves to promote public understanding concerning the management of radioactive waste through links to the other government agencies and industry.

The Commission has also set up booths at **Open House** events in the state. The Commission sets up at the annual Bureau of Health Day held at the Augusta Civic Center during the winter. A quarterly **newsletter** providing informational updates on Radioactive Waste in Maine was sent out to 300+ addresses in the spring, summer and fall. During the winter the newsletter was also sent out to the entire mailing list for the Radiation Control Program. This new list included the ACORWD, radiation materials and radon mailing lists and went out to 800+ readers.

The Commission **studies** the management, transportation, treatment, storage and disposal of radioactive waste, including high-level and low-level radioactive waste and mixed waste, generated in this state by means of presentations at its meeting, site visits and attending information meetings.

The commission was continuously updated on Maine Yankee's decommissioning and the planned disposal of low and high level waste by the state's on-site inspectors, Pat Dostie and Dale Randall, and by Maine Yankee's Mike Meisner. These updates keep the commission informed on the status of work and projects like the automated truck radiation monitor installed to scan truckloads of non-radioactive demolition waste leaving the site for radioactive contamination and the status of Greater Than Class C waste.

Some Commission members also regularly attend Maine Yankee's Community Advisory Panel to hear presentations by Maine Yankee, the Nuclear Regulatory Agency, Environmental Protection Agency and the public. Two members are also members of that panel.

The commission **monitors** the methods, criteria and federal timetables for siting and constructing of a high-level radioactive waste repository and/or storage facilities by means of a report from the ACORWD staff, the State Public Advocate and State Nuclear Safety Office. This information is compiled in the appendix. The appendix describes the status and events in the Texas Compact, Barnwell Radioactive Waste Landfill in South Carolina, Yucca Mountain, Goshute Indians, etc.

The commission held five meetings during the year 2001. These meetings were held on the following dates: 12 February, 2 April, 28 June, 25 September, and 13 November. All meetings were held in the Cross-Burton State Office and are open to the public.

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Meeting agendas follow a standard format with presentations giving updates on Low-Level Waste, High-Level Waste (HLW), Maine Yankee Decommissioning Activities, and public comments.

## SUMMARY OF MEETINGS

**Meeting of 12 February.** Dale Randall, DHS, updated the commission on activities on the Maine Yankee Decommissioning. He stated that the License Termination Plan (LTP) should be presented to the commission members for comment. The commission decided that the next meeting will have a representative from Maine Yankee present the LTP. Mike Meisner, commission member representing Maine Yankee, briefed the commission on the decommissioning to date. He stated that the LTP was still a hurdle, decommissioning was at 40% complete, truck monitors were running well, and four canisters of GTCC are to be stored in the ISFSI. The barge shipments depend on the water levels on the approach to Barnwell, S.C. The Corps of Engineers is working with Maine Yankee to forecast the levels.

Risk studies have been done on potential fuel pool accidents. Pools can heat up due to major problems, however, these kinds of concerns take several weeks to develop. The chances are extremely low and can be foreseen and corrected. The study was published in a report that got the media's attention and raised issues. These issues are general and are very different when studied on a case-by-case basis.

Ray Shadis, representing Friends of the Coast (FOTC), briefed the commission on the FOTC position as an intervener and stated their concern for the security of the spent fuel casks. He also stated his concern that casks will attract more casks. FOTC is concerned with the new cask design and feels there should be a 6-8 month delay in order to better review the design. The site is expected to store the fuel for some time and the expected removal date is 2038 (a best guess for the opening of a federal site). FOTC also has no confidence in the state's experts, terrorism is a major threat and NRC does not require the same security of the site as a reactor. The state must ensure no more waste comes to the site and what if the fuel is not removed after 2038? FOTC would like to see the commission hold a public forum to inform the public. The commission decided to review the issue to determine if further action is needed.

Paula Craighead, State of Maine, presented to the commission the duties of the Office of Nuclear Safety (ONS). The ONS feels the state is fortunate to have good technical experts on the staff and that the public should have confidence in these people. The study of pool fires has little relevance on the Maine Yankee's situation; dry cask storage is different from pool storage. The state urges Maine Yankee to continue with dry storage and federal assets are in place to handle terrorist situations.

**Meeting of 2 April.** Mike Meisner, commission member representing Maine Yankee, presented to the commission about the Maine Yankee termination Plan, purpose of the LTP, background and its contents.

Paula Craighead, ONS, addressed the commission in regards to the LTP. She stated the state has received good advice from in-state and out-of-state technical people. The state is an intervener and has a goal to see that the LTP is a product free of confrontation.

Steve Ward, the State Public Advocate, addressed the commission. He stated that the Public Utility Commission was also interested in the LTP. There are now new issues with the Texas Compact due to Maine Yankee's decommissioning before Texas gets a site up and running. He questions whether the Texas Compact is now worth it for Maine. Should Maine be paying for space it will not use? There is \$12.5 million due when a site in Texas opens plus a later \$12.5 million. Will Maine have other access? Envirocare, located in Utah, has recently applied for a class B and C license for open market acceptance of low-level waste.

**Meeting/Tour of 28 June.** This meeting/tour was held at Maine Yankee Atomic Power Company by Maine Yankee. The purpose was to tour the Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation (ISFSI) prior to the loading of Greater Than Class C (GTCC) waste and spent fuel.

**Meeting of 25 September.** This meeting was held a couple of weeks after the September 11 terrorist incidents. Paula Craighead, State of Maine, addressed the commission on actions the state has taken in

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coordinating the Emergency Operation Center on radiological issues. Foremost is the concern for security at Maine Yankee and that fuel transfer to the ISFSI security issues are reconsidered.

Paula Craighead and Jay Hyland of the Radiation Control Program briefed the commission on revision 2 of the Maine Yankee's License Termination Plan submittal of August 14.

Mike Meisner of Maine Yankee stated to the commission that the decommissioning plant has increased security and is in communication with the state Emergency Operation Center. Many comforting things can be said about Maine Yankee security, but many details cannot to be discussed in public.

The commission stated it was not satisfied with general statements concerning security at Maine Yankee. The commission wants to know, or hear from others that know, that the state is safe. The next meeting will address the issue of radioactive security from individuals in state government and Maine Yankee with first hand knowledge of the situation.

The commission then received a brief from Shawn Seeley of the Maine Radiation Control Program on Naturally Occurring Radioactive Materials turning up at metal recycling yards. This is a problem that is on the rise since more yards begin to radiological monitoring incoming loads. The commission would like to look into this further at a later meeting to determine if legislative action is needed.

**Meeting of 13 November.** The Advisory Commission on Radioactive Waste and Decommissioning (ACORWD) held a meeting on 13 November 2001 to hear issues concerning security and fuel storage at Maine Yankee. Terrorist activities in the United States have prompted many state government and citizen groups to question security at the decommissioning power plant. The issues of concern were the long term or short-term storage of fuel, emergency procedures and evacuation, state jurisdiction and public concerns. Currently the plant is over 50% decommissioned and spent fuel will be transferred to the onsite storage facility soon.

The commission heard from the State's Nuclear Safety Advisory – Paula Craighead, Maine National Guard Adjutant General – Major General Tinkham and the Public Utilities Commission Engineer – Joe Sukaskas. They were followed by Maine Yankee's Mike Meisner, Dennis Harnish from the AG's Office, and representatives of various citizens groups.

Paula Craighead began by defining the role of the safety advisor and the current situation of the decommissioning. She made it clear that the plant has no operating reactor and is well on its way to decommissioning and that security was at a level allowed by the NRC for a plant of its status. The federal government needs to find a central home for all spent fuel for the King administration has never been satisfied with the storage of spent fuel in Maine.

General Tinkham outlined the state's involvement with Maine Yankee and its confidence in Maine Yankee's security. The general and the governor have met many times with Maine Yankee to receive briefings on their security. They came from those meetings finding the plant very secure and that it did not need a National Guard presence. Response plans between Maine Yankee, National Guard and State Police will make it more secure. The plant is secure from ground and sea threats, however the air is beyond control. General Tinkham also felt air is also a very unlikely scenario at the site.

Joe Sukaskas stated the Public Utilities Commission no longer regulates the former plant. It is involved when the utilities wants to recover costs of decommissioning and with the DOE's Nuclear Waste Fund. It has urged the federal government to speed up the removal of spent fuel.

Dennis Harnish stated that the state has no role to play in determining dry vs. wet storage and cask design, nor does the state have authority in the movement of spent fuel.

Mike Meisner reiterated that certain items of information on security cannot be discussed in public.

A number of members of the citizen group, David Lochbaum and Peter Christine, presented their concerns for "Force on Force" tests and the need for the National Guard at the decommissioning plant

The commission has not made a determination on the safety issues of wet vs. dry storage. It believes the spent fuel will be on site for some time in the storage facility and will further pursue the issues of force on force tests and spent fuel removal from the site.

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## APPENDIX A

### LOW-LEVEL WASTE

Low-level Radioactive Waste (LLRW) is an inevitable by-product of beneficial uses of radioactive materials in the United States in the areas of medical research, diagnosis and treatment of diseases, industrial processes, and electric power generation. All these areas are deemed important to the interests of the nation. Today far less radioactive waste is produced than ten years ago. This is because of improved waste management practices and a large reduction in military defense related activity. Unfortunately, these practices will not reduce the amount to zero and waste will be with us for as long as we enjoy the benefits of the waste. The number of disposal sites needed to manage the quantity of waste now being generated is far less than formerly expected. Safe and effective methods and standards for transport and disposal of LLRW are well established.

The 1980 LLRW Policy Act, as amended in 1985, established a framework for the states to provide for safe disposal of LLRW, and encouraged the creation of regional compacts to develop an appropriate network of disposal sites. The deadlines established for the development of new sites have passed with no new sites being opened. Political, judicial, and administrative obstacles have blocked sites that were identified in California and Texas. Complex regulatory obstacles have thwarted other sites in North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Illinois, and Nebraska. Some states have simply stopped developing siting programs because there is no need for additional disposal capacity in the foreseeable future. Consequently, LLRW is now stored at or near the source of generation at thousands of sites nationwide. The effect of these obstacles and restrictions is to interfere with optimal beneficial uses of radioactive materials in medicine, research, and technology.

The goal of managing LLRW is to ensure the safety of workers and the public and to protect the environment. To achieve this goal, disposal, not long-term storage, is the safest approach. Present knowledge and technology are sufficient to allow such disposal safely. However, Monitored Retrievable Storage is becoming widely accepted nationwide.

### TEXAS COMPACT

#### Background

The governing body for the Texas compact is the Texas low-level Radioactive Waste Disposal Compact Commission. Member states are Texas, Maine and Vermont. The compact was established in June of 1993 when the Governor of Texas signed into law legislation establishing a low-level radioactive waste compact with Maine and Vermont. Maine completed its approval process with the passage of a referendum on November 2, 1993 and Vermont in 1994. President Clinton signed the compact consent legislation into law on September 20, 1998.

Regulatory Responsibility: Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC)  
Program Responsibility: Texas Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Authority (Authority) (abolished)  
Siting Responsibility: Texas low-level Radioactive Waste Disposal Authority (Authority) (abolished)  
Other Involvement: Texas Department of Health  
Disposal Technology: Below-ground concrete canisters, previously, and now working toward Above ground long-term storage.

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## Events in 2001

Several bills were introduced in Texas during the 2001 legislative session which pertained to the management and disposal of low-level radioactive waste. The following is a brief summary of major points of the legislation, as introduced. Persons interested in more detail are directed to the bills themselves. Copies of the bills, as well as status reports, can be found at [www.capitol.state.tx.us](http://www.capitol.state.tx.us).

### House Bill No. 8

This bill, among other things, provides for the possibility of construction of an assured isolation facility in the State of Texas. In addition, it provides for the issuance of a license for a disposal or assured isolation facility to a private entity. However, the bill contains the following language limiting waste disposal by the U.S. Department of Energy in a private facility:

"The total radioactivity of United States Department of Energy wastes licensed for disposal at a site owned by a private entity shall be twenty percent less than the radioactivity of wastes projected to be received pursuant to the Texas Low-level Radioactive Waste Disposal Compact, unless the radioactivity is otherwise exempt or existing in nature."

H.B. 8 also contains language that limits the state's liability for waste that is accepted or stored at a site owned or operated by a private entity and that requires reporting of the disposal of low-level radioactive waste. In addition, the bill contains siting criteria, including the prohibition of a site within 62 miles of the Mexican border or in which the average annual rainfall is greater than 26 inches.

### House Bill No. 85

This bill amends various sections of the Texas Health and Safety Code to remove the designation of Hudspeth County as the host county for the proposed Texas Compact low-level radioactive waste disposal facility. H.B. 85 is scheduled for a second reading in the Texas House of Representatives on April 10, 2001.

### House Bill No. 1099

H.B. 1099 requires that radioactive material licensees demonstrate that they are financially qualified to conduct the licensed activity, including the performance of decontamination, decommissioning, reclamation and disposal activities. The bill also provides for the collection of an additional five percent of the appropriate annual fee to be deposited in the radiation and perpetual care fund.

### House Bill No. 2370

H.B. 2370 prohibits the disposal of low-level radioactive waste in a landfill "below the natural level of a disposal site."

### House Bill 2371

This piece of legislation contains a requirement that a host state commissioner and an alternate must sign and present to the governor prior to his appointment a written pledge not to allow for the disposal of waste from states outside of the Texas Compact in a facility licensed by the state.

### House Bill 2904

H.B. 2904 removes the designation of Hudspeth County as the host for a regional low-level radioactive waste disposal facility. In addition, the bill requires that a disposal site "include above-ground isolation facilities for managing low-level radioactive waste pending disposal."

### House Bill 2905

This bill establishes a Low-level Radioactive Waste Disposal Authority as a state agency charged with statewide jurisdiction over low-level radioactive waste management and disposal and creates a citizens advisory committee to perform oversight functions. It contains detailed requirements about the selection of Authority members, their powers and duties, and management site selection and acquisition. The bill also



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establishes a preference for above-ground, monitored storage of low-level radioactive waste. It also requires approval of the host county prior to siting of a facility.

The bill states that the Authority shall apply to the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission for a site license, but specifically states that the Commission may not license the management of mixed waste. Also, a license may not be issued for below-ground disposal or shallow land burial of low-level radioactive waste. The Texas Department of Health has jurisdiction, according to the bill, over low-level radioactive waste storage activities other than assured isolation and over waste transportation to or from a management site.

### House Bill No. 3086

H.B. 3086 removes the designation of Hudspeth County as the host for a regional low-level radioactive waste disposal facility. It also lays out the process for selecting a site, including a county election on whether the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission should be authorized to choose the site for further analysis.

### House Bill No. 3283

H.B. 3283 provides for the siting of either a low-level radioactive waste assured isolation facility or disposal facility. However, if the state chooses to develop an assured isolation facility, it must conduct certain studies and meet certain specified requirements listed in the bill. In addition, the legislation prohibits the siting of a facility in a county that is adjacent to an international boundary, within 62 miles of an international boundary, and in a location that receives greater than 26 inches of rain. The bill provides for a county referendum on the siting of a facility and requires an affirmative response from a majority of those voting. In regard to below-ground burial, the bill states as follows:

"Underground disposal may be considered for the management of low-level radioactive waste received from the compact states only if assured isolation is found not to be feasible."

The bill requires the state to acquire ownership of the planned site prior to commencing facility construction. It also contains several limitations on the acceptance of waste from out of region generators. In addition, it includes language limiting the state's liability for the management and disposal of waste at a site operated by a private entity and outlining the creation and operation of a perpetual care fund.

### House Bill No. 3420/ Senate Bill No. 1541

H.B. 3420 and S.B. 1541 are companion bills that provide for the siting of either a low-level, radioactive waste assured isolation facility or disposal facility for Texas Compact waste. They contain stringent licensing requirements, license application procedures, and license conditions. They provide for the holding of a county-wide referendum. They also list siting criteria and financial assurance requirements. Once issued, the legislation allows for a 10-year license renewal.

In conclusion, on Monday, May 28, the Texas Legislature adjourned without passing any of the bills introduced and relating to the management and disposal of low-level radioactive waste. Absent special circumstances, a new legislature will not be reconvened until January 2003.

The legislature did, however, pass H.B. 2912- legislation relating to the continuation and functions of the Texas Natural Resources Conservation Commission (INRCC). This bill, commonly referred to as "sunset legislation," was a vehicle a few years back for abolishment of the Texas Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Authority. It was signed by both the House and Senate and sent to the Governor on May 28, but did not contain any language relating to the development or siting of a low-level radioactive waste disposal facility.

## **SOUTH CAROLINA**

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## Schedule Set for Phasing Out Access

Total volumes of non-compact (Atlantic Compact) waste accepted at the Barnwell facility will be reduced each year, beginning in 2001, in accordance with the following schedule.

<i>Year (ending in June)</i>	<i>maximum allowable volume (cubic feet) of waste from all sources</i>
2001	160,000
2002	80,000
2003	70,000
2004	60,000
2005	50,000
2006	45,000
2007	40,000
2008	35,000

During the transition period, shipments from non-Atlantic Compact generators would be approved on a case-by-case basis by the South Carolina Budget and Control Board, as authorized by the compact commission. As a congressionally approved compact, the Atlantic Compact has legal authority over import of low-level radioactive waste into the region for disposal.

On August 1, Bill Newberry, manager of the Radioactive Waste Disposal Program of the Energy Office of the South Carolina Budget and Control Board, sent a letter to generators who use the Barnwell low-level radioactive waste disposal facility. The purpose of the letter was to update customers on policies and plans related to the facility, which will cease accepting out-of-region waste after June 30, 2008 pursuant to state law. In the interim, the annual volume of waste that can be accepted at Barnwell is limited. For instance, from July 1, 2001 through June 30, 2002, the Barnwell facility may accept up to 80,000 cubic feet of waste. This is a 35 percent reduction from the volume received during the prior one-year period. In his letter Newberry emphasized the following points:

- Disposal rates for the Barnwell facility are set by the State of South Carolina, as is the methodology for allocating the declining annual volumes among potential customers. Chem-Nuclear is compensated for operating the site based on audited operating costs, with any excess disposal revenues going to the state for educational purposes.
- In the unlikely event that Chem-Nuclear determines to terminate its lease for the disposal facility, the company is required to give the state six months notice. In such an event, the South Carolina Budget and Control Board would take steps to minimize any disruption in disposal service.
- Waste, which is disposed of at the Barnwell facility is attributed to the original generator, regardless of whether its form has been changed by an intermediate processor.
- State policy is to provide equal pricing and access for waste from all generators - no waste broker or processor is given special access privileges or pricing discounts.
- South Carolina discourages agreements between waste brokers, processors and decontamination service and their waste generator customers that do not separate out and itemize disposal prices for generators. Chem-Nuclear has been asked to separate out disposal contracts from other waste management contracts in the future.
- The deadline for customers to submit payments to reserve disposal capacity has been extended to January 15, 2002. Payments will be used as partial prepayments for waste, which is disposed during the remainder of this fiscal year.

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## MAINE YANKEE ATOMIC POWER COMPANY

Work continued on the decommissioning at Maine Yankee and on the Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation (ISFSI) in 2001. In January work started on the thermal shield and core support barrel stitch and peel cuts followed by the core barrel peel cuts. Cutting of the core shroud was delayed until after April due to equipment issues with the waste collection system. The cutting up of these components constitutes Greater Than Class C (GTCC) waste, which will be stored in the ISFSI. Segmentation of the Reactor Pressure Vessel (RPV) was completed in early May. Dry run movements of GTCC were scheduled for late May, but were rescheduled to June due to equipment and pressure test issues and concluded in late August with GTCC loading to follow. Dry runs for spent fuel movement were planned and prepared in late 2001 and will begin in 2002.

Amendments for the release of the Eaton Farm Land and a security plan amendment were submitted to the NRC. A License Termination Plan (LTP) settlement was signed in September by the State of Maine, Friends of the Coast and Maine Yankee to help settle issues while the NRC moves ahead with the LTP approval process.

Clean concrete removal was under way in April with the loading of clean concrete into railcars destined for New York. This was an issue in 2000 as to whether the concrete should be disposed of on-site.

NAC continued work on Vertical Concrete Containers (VCC) and moving the finished containers to pads in the ISFSI, the project was 50% complete in late August. Transportable Storage Containers (TSC) were delivered to the site starting in early 2001. Loading of GTCC had a milestone commencement date of April 13, due to delays this started at the end of the year and into the next. Therefore, the spent fuel loading milestone of June 8 was moved to middle 2002.

In August the Reactor Pressure Vessel Head Project was completed. This included segmentation of the head into four flange segments and the head dome, design and fabrication of special shipping containers, packaging of the five pieces, and shipping them by truck to Envirocare in Utah. Original plans were to ship the head to Barnwell, S.C along with the reactor vessel, however the load was too much for the barge. The head was instead segmented and shipped in parts on a five-truck convoy to Utah for burial.

The turbine pedestal was softened by explosive blasting to facilitate its removal in October. The turbine hall itself was brought down by explosives in early November.

Terrorist events in September were closely monitored at Maine Yankee and security was immediately increased. Meetings with State officials and the Maine National Guard resulted in increased security measures around the decommissioning plant.

At the end of November the decommissioning of Maine Yankee was approximately 56% complete. The average work force totaled 440 persons performing 2.9 million work hours.

Maine Yankee's decommissioning project was the largest producer of low-level waste in the state. In 2001 they shipped out of state to disposal sites 96,124 cubic feet of Class A, 372 cubic feet of Class B, and 1,062 cubic feet of Class C waste.

Source: Maine Yankee's weekly newsletter "The Look INSIDE"

## UTAH

Envirocare of Utah currently disposes of Class A Low-Level Waste. Envirocare has been working on a Class B and C License Request.

On July 9, the Executive Secretary of the Utah Radiation Control Board issued a final decision to approve, subject to specified limitations and conditions, an application by Envirocare of Utah to receive and dispose of containerized Class A, B, and C low-level radioactive waste at its facility in Tooele County, Utah. Shortly thereafter, Envirocare President Charles Judd determined that the company would not seek legislative or gubernatorial approval for its class B and C low-level radioactive waste proposal. Over the

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months Envirocare felt that the major differences between their proposal to dispose of Class B & C low-level radioactive waste and the Goshute Tribe's proposal for Private Fuel Storage (PFS) to accept high-level spent fuel rods from nuclear power plants had created a public perception problem that made pursuit of their proposal extremely difficult.

Envirocare believed their opponents assisted by some members of the news media had deliberately confused the people of Utah about the huge differences between the two proposals. Although the differences between the two proposals are extreme, the firestorm of controversy that surrounds the PFS/Goshute proposal has spilled over onto Envirocare's project. Envirocare felt this had made it difficult to obtain a properly documented, well-considered decision concerning Envirocare's proposal. Envirocare understood that the State of Utah was determined to stop the PFS plan to import high-level waste. Envirocare felt that pursuing the project while the PFS proposal was pending, would only lead to more confusion and continued misrepresentation of the facts surrounding their efforts.

In January 2002 Judd resigned as president and CEO of Envirocare.

## CALIFORNIA

Senate Bill 243, legislation relating to the management and disposal of low-level radioactive waste in the State of California, did not meet the "house of origin" deadline and will become a "two-year bill." As such, it cannot be taken up again until January 2002. Nonetheless, Senate rules require that, as a "two-year bill," SB 243 must pass the Senate to the Assembly no later than January 31, 2002 if it is to remain a viable legislative option. In order to bypass these restrictions, supporters of the bill would need to find another legislative vehicle on which to attach it or seek rule waivers for a hearing later this year.

The bill, which was introduced on February 14 by California State Senator Sheila Kuehl (D)-states the legislature's intent to, among other things

- prohibit shallow land burial of low-level radioactive waste;
- establish a temporary facility for the storage of waste generated by medicine, academia, and biotechnology; and
- restrict zoning of contaminated sites.

It was heard on May 7 by the Senate Environmental Quality Committee, at which time testimony was introduced by both opponents and proponents of the bill.

Dana Mount, Chair of the Southwestern Low-Level Radioactive Waste Commission, sent a letter to State Senator Kuehl on March 1 expressing his opposition to the legislation. The letter stated as follows:

"This is to express my opposition to your bill, SB 243. It does not address the obligation of the State of California to the States of Arizona, North Dakota, and South Dakota, the other members of the Southwestern Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Compact. As such, it fails to meet the requirements of Public Law 100-712, the Southwestern Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Compact Consent Act. I object to technical aspects of the bill as well."

At an April 6 meeting of the Southwestern Low-Level Radioactive Waste Commission in Sacramento, California, the Commissioner from Arizona made the following motion, which was amended and approved unanimously:

"I move that the Southwestern Low-level Radioactive Waste Commission, by letter to the Governor and Legislative Leaders, request the State of California meet its contractual obligation to provide for the disposal of low-level radioactive waste for 30 years, and until such time, that California provide for the storage of the low-level radioactive wastes of the Party States of the Southwestern Low-Level Radioactive Waste Compact. The State of California may elect to pay the various affected licensees the costs of storage or to indemnify the affected licensees."

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Letters transmitting the resolution were sent to the Governor and legislative leaders dated May 1, 2001.

## **HIGH LEVEL RADIOACTIVE WASTE**

### **The Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982**

An Act to provide for the development of repositories for the disposal of high-level radioactive waste and spent nuclear fuel, to establish a program of research, development, and demonstration regarding the disposal of high-level radioactive waste and spent nuclear fuel, and for other purposes. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled.

#### **Background**

High-level radioactive waste (HLW) consists primarily of nuclear fuel rods from commercial nuclear power plants and is called "spent nuclear fuel." Radioactive waste that results from the commercial reprocessing of spent nuclear fuel also falls under the NRC definition of HLW. Reprocessing extract isotopes from spent fuel that can be used again as reactor fuel. Commercial reprocessing is currently not practiced in the US although it has been allowed in the past. There are significant quantities of HLW from the defense reprocessing and commercial nuclear programs at Department of Energy (DOE) facilities. These facilities include sites at Hanford, Washington; Savannah River, South Carolina; and West Valley, New York and must also be included in any Federal HLW disposal plans.

#### **Legislative Requirements**

US policies governing the permanent disposal of HLW are defined by the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 (NWPA), the Nuclear Waste Policy Amendments Act (NWPAA) of 1987, and the Energy Policy Act of 1992. These acts specify that HLW will be disposed of underground, in a deep geologic repository.

The NRC is one of three Federal agencies under the acts with a role in the disposal of spent fuel and other HLW. DOE is responsible for determining the suitability of the proposed disposal site as well as developing, building, and operating the geologic repository. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will develop environmental standards to evaluate the safety of the geologic repository proposed by DOE. NRC will license the repository after determining whether DOE's proposed repository site and design comply with EPA's standards and with NRC's implementing regulations found in 10 CFR Part 60.

#### **HLW Storage Problem**

The American utility companies and their 65 million consumers have a spent fuel storage and disposal problem. The power plants were built with only limited spent fuel storage. Without a storage or disposal facility, the viability of many of these plants is seriously in question.

The management and disposal of increasing amounts of commercial spent nuclear fuel is being exercised in different ways worldwide including interim storage and reprocessing. Between 1996 and 2015, nuclear reactors worldwide are projected to discharge about 200 thousand metric tons of uranium (MTU). By 2015, cumulative discharges of spent fuel from U.S. nuclear reactors are expected to increase to about 75 thousand MTU, compared to a total of 32 thousand MTU discharged through the end of 1995.

1996 data showed that in the next 19 years, 46 of the 107 commercial nuclear power plants currently operating in the United States are scheduled to be closed after reaching the end of their operating license. However, several commercial reactors have been successfully decommissioned, demonstrating that decommissioning is well within the bounds of current technology. The greatest uncertainty, however, is the availability of spent fuel storage disposal sites.

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Many factors enter into a nuclear utility's decision to choose one of the decommissioning options, depending primarily on the expected escalation in low-level waste (LLW) costs. Factors favoring the option of dismantlement and decontamination (DECON) include the availability of a highly skilled staff with experience at the plant, and the elimination of potential future cost uncertainties. Factors favoring an option where a facility is maintained until some decay of radioactivity, followed by dismantlement include the desire to reduce the radioactivity and quantity of LLW and the possibility that new, more efficient disposal technologies may emerge.

Currently, only three sites accept LLW: Envirocare in Clive, Utah (on aboriginal Goshute territory immediately next to the Reservation); Barnwell in South Carolina; and Hanford in Washington. Although these sites accept LLW, their disposal charges differ considerably, from \$85 per cubic foot at Hanford to \$385 per cubic foot at Barnwell. NRC estimates of DECON cost for a reference reactor with LLW disposal at Hanford range from \$133 to \$158 million versus a range of \$224 to \$303 million for safe storage option. With continued delay in the Federal government's high-level waste repository, utilities must also consider the costs and benefits of continued pool storage versus those of placing all their spent fuel in an independent spent fuel storage installation (ISFSI). Annual spent fuel storage costs are estimated at about \$6 million for pool storage and \$2 million for dry storage in an ISFSI.

### **BAND OF GOSHUTE INDIAN SKULL VALLEY SPENT FUEL STORAGE FACILITY**

The proposed \$125 million dollar storage facility is a larger version of the Surry Virginia Independent Spent Fuel Storage Facility. The proposed temporary spent fuel storage capacity is 40,000 metric tons, which is sufficient to accommodate all of the nation's spent fuel currently stored at the various power plants.

The fuel rod assemblies will be stored in very heavy casks, which are licensed by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. These spent fuel assemblies have been stored in fuel pools at 72 reactor sites in the 34 states that currently have nuclear power plants. These assemblies will be over ten years old and their thermal heat output will be negligible. Approximately 99.9% of the gamma and beta radiation of the fission products has dissipated within ten years of cooling. After 1,000 years, the activity of the remaining waste is comparable to the natural uranium ore from which the fuel was taken. There has been extensive study on spent fuel assemblies and their radiation properties.

## **YUCCA MOUNTAIN**

### **Background**

The purpose of the Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Project is to determine if Yucca Mountain, Nevada, is a suitable site for a spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste repository. These materials are a result of nuclear power generation and national defense programs and will remain highly radioactive for thousands of years.

Experts throughout the world agree that the most feasible and safe method for disposing of highly radioactive materials is to store them deep underground. Based on this consensus, the United States Congress passed the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 that directs the Department of Energy to find a site and characterize it. If the site is found suitable and a license application is approved by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the Department of Energy is to build and operate an underground disposal facility.

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The project involves extensive scientific study on Yucca Mountain's geology, hydrology, biology, and climate. If found suitable, Yucca Mountain could be part of the nation's first long-term solution to a compelling environmental problem.

## Operation

If the Department of Energy finds Yucca Mountain a suitable site for a repository, it must obtain a license from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission before building and operating the repository. According to current project schedules, the earliest the department could start operating a repository at Yucca Mountain is 2010.

Repository operations will include all activities associated with:

- transporting and receiving highly radioactive materials
- preparing the materials for placement in the repository
- placing the materials in the repository
- monitoring the repository over the long term

The department estimates that it will take 25 years to receive and place the materials in the repository. Experts will continually monitor the repository until the secretary of energy makes a decision to close it.

## Licensing

The Nuclear Waste Policy Act, as amended, requires the Department of Energy to obtain a license from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission before it can build and operate a geologic repository for highly radioactive materials. The commission will base the license award on regulations designed to protect public health and safety for thousands of years. The following summarizes the repository licensing process.

- If the president and Congress approve a site recommendation from the secretary of Energy, the department will submit a license application to the commission in 2002.
- The commission will conduct extensive scientific reviews and hearings. If it concludes that the proposed repository meets requirements specified in the Code of Federal Regulations, the commission will grant authorization to begin construction in 2005. The department will then begin to build the repository.
- When the repository is near completion in 2008, the department will request authorization from the commission to begin operations.
- If the commission determines that the repository complies with all federal regulations, it will grant a repository operations license in 2010. The department will begin operations upon receipt of this license.

## Site Recommendation

In the last days of 2001 Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham announced his intention to recommend to President George Bush that Yucca Mountain, Nevada, be used as a repository for spent fuel from civil reactors, high-level radioactive waste and Plutonium disposition. Reactions to the announcement were predictable. Industry was in approval while Nevada and the environmentalists were not.

# RUSSIA

Russian President Vladimir Putin in 2001 approved changes to the country's environmental laws, which will allow the importation of large quantities of spent nuclear fuel from foreign countries for reprocessing and storage. In so doing, Putin named a special commission to review all proposed waste imports.

Legislation allowing the import was passed by the Russian Parliament in June. The controversial legislation changed Russian laws, which previously barred the importation of radioactive waste into Russia. In so doing, the legislation allows the Russian Ministry of Atomic Energy to pursue billions of dollars worth of contracts for the disposal of spent fuel from a variety of countries including, among others, Japan, Taiwan, Switzerland, Germany, Spain, Korea and China. The U.S. government has remained officially neutral on the issue.

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Under the plan, Russia will import approximately 1,000 tons of spent nuclear fuel per year. The imported fuel will be stored until 2021, during which time Russia will upgrade its reprocessing facilities with money earned from the program.



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## APPENDIX B: FINANCIAL REPORTS

### Radioactive Waste Fund and ACORWD Financial Report for Calendar Year (CY) 2001

014-10A-0143-03-2439

Note: bills assessed annually by 1 Sept. Payments may be made quarterly during the state's Fiscal Year  
Bills sent out based on 1999 generated waste will all be received by 1 April 2001  
Bills are based on the Radioactive Waste fund set At \$135,000 minus budget remaining at end of FY

FY2002 is from July 01 to June 02

CY2001 is from January to December

<u>Generators</u>	<u>Billed FY2002</u>	<u>Received CY2001</u>
Idexx Labs	\$100.00	\$100.00
Maine Yankee Atomic Power Co.	\$96,829.00	\$76,185.51
Total	\$96,929.00	<b>\$76,285.51</b>

	<u>Beginning Balance</u>	<b>\$73,129.34</b>
Expenses personnel	<u>Amount</u>	
3000 Personal services	\$47,720.25	
3890 ACORWD per diem	<u>\$1,045.00</u>	
Total		<b>\$(48,765.25)</b>

<b>Expenses Overhead</b>		
4000 Contractual services-professional services not by state, Catering	\$1,980.68	
4100 In-State services, Admin. overhead	\$31,239.21	
4200 Travel expenses in-state	\$1,135.61	
4300 Travel expenses out-of-state	\$1,458.22	
4600 Rents	\$2,734.17	
4700 Repairs-computer maint. Agreement	\$1,095.00	
4800 Insurance-on equipment	\$162.00	
4900 Printing, postage, shipping	\$7,687.62	
4970 ACORWD mileage	\$85.80	
4980 ACORWD travel expense	\$11.95	
5000 Employee training expenditures	\$675.00	
5300 Technology expenditures, Telephone	\$1,588.27	
5600 Other supplies	\$949.17	
8500 Transfers to general fund-STACAP	<u>\$1,294.53</u>	
Total		<b>(\$52,097.23)</b>
<b>Ending Balance</b>		<b>\$48,552.37</b>

	<b>FY 2002</b>	<b>FY 2003</b>
Account carryover	<b>\$73,129.34</b>	\$68,756.34
Income	\$96,929.00	\$66,243.66
Salary/benefits	(\$45,860.88)	(\$47,924.62)
Admin overhead	(\$31,239.21)	(\$27,600.00)
ACORW&D per diem	(\$1,045.00)	(\$1,000.00)
Rent/power, telephone	(\$3,300.00)	(\$3,500.00)
Professional services	(\$3,500.00)	(\$3,500.00)
Computer hardware and service	(\$1,828.00)	(\$2,000.00)
Supplies, shipping, advertising	(\$4,228.91)	(\$4,500.00)
Sta. Cap	(\$1,300.00)	(\$1,300.00)
Training/travel	(\$5,000.00)	(\$5,500.00)
LLW Forum	(\$4,000.00)	(\$4,000.00)
Ending balance	<b>\$68,756.34</b>	<b>\$34,175.38</b>

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## APPENDIX C: LOW-LEVEL WASTE GENERATORS IN MAINE

NAME	LICENSE#	Activity Disposed (curies)	Principle Isotopes	VOL.(Cu. Ft.) Disposed	VOL. (Cu Ft.) In Storage
IDEXX LABORATORIES, INC. (Class A)	05453	0.011	I-125, S-35	36.00	66.00
MYAPC (total)	11601	3155.29	Co-60, Ni-63, Fe-55, Cs-137	78643.00	24,640.00
(Class A)		22.20		78,005.00	24,640.00
(Class B)		8.09		18.80	
(Class C)		3,125.00		619.20	

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## APPENDIX D: ACORWD LIST OF APPOINTMENTS

Status/Name	Termination Date	Representing
<b>Bob Demkowicz</b> Dept. of Environmental Protection State House Station # 17 Augusta, ME 04333  bob.a.demkowicz@state.me.us	Seat 1	Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner or Designee
<b>Clough Toppan, P.E.</b> , Director Division of Health Engineering 10 State House Station Augusta, ME 04333-010  e-mail: clough.toppan@state.me.us	Seat 2	Department of Human Services Commissioner or Designee
<b>Dr. Robert Marvinney</b> State Geologist 22 State House Station Augusta, ME 04333-0022  e-mail: robert.marvinney@state.me.us	Seat 3	Maine State Geologist or Designee
<b>Mike Meisner</b> Maine Yankee Atomic Power Plant 321 Old Ferry Road Wiscasset, ME 04578  email: meisnerm@myapc.com	December 31, 2002 Term expires Dec 31st of even numbered years.	Representing a Maine Nuclear Power Plant
<b>open</b>	Seat 4	Appt. by Governor
	December 31, 1999 Term expires Dec 31st of even numbered years.	Radioactive Material Licensee Representative
	Seat 5	Appt. by Senate President
<b>Joseph Blinick, PhD</b> Maine Medical Center 22 Bramhall Street Portland, ME 04102 e-mail: blinij@mail.mmc.org	December 31, 2001 Term expires Dec 31st of odd numbered years.	Radioactive Material Licensee Representative. Representing Maine Medical Center
<b>Senator Sharon Treat (Chair)</b> Senator, State of Maine 28 Kingsbury Street Gardiner, ME 04345  e-mail: sensharon.treat@state.me.us	Seat 6 December 4, 2002 Term expires the first Wednesday in December of even numbered years	Appt. by Speaker of the House State of Maine
	Seat 7	Appt. by President of the Senate. Belonging to Political Party holding the largest number of seats in the Senate
<b>Senator W. Tom Sawyer, Jr.</b> 544 Valley Ave Bangor, 04401 H: (207) 942-1771  email: senatorsawyer@aol.com	December 4, 2002 Term expires the first Wednesday in December of even numbered years	State of Maine.
	Seat 8	Appt. by President of the Senate. Belonging to Political Party holding the largest number of seats in the Senate
<b>Senator Norman Ferguson</b> Senator, State of Maine Box 36, Howard Pond Road Hanover, ME 04237  email: sennorman.Ferguson@state.me.us	December 4, 2002 Term expires the first Wednesday in December of even numbered years	State of Maine
	Seat 9	Appt. by President of the Senate. Belonging to Political Party holding the 2 <sup>nd</sup> largest number of seats in the Senate
<b>Rep. Robert Daigle (V. Chair)</b> Representative, State of Maine 197 Mountain Road Arundel, Maine 04046 H: (207) 282-0761 State House Message Ph: (800) 423-2900 email: rdaigle@ghi.net	December 4, 2002 Term expires the first Wednesday in December of even numbered years	State of Maine
	Seat 10	Appt. by Speaker of the House. Belonging to Political Party holding the 2 <sup>nd</sup> largest number of seats in the House.
<b>Rep. Peter L. Rines</b> Representative, State of Maine 334 Bradford Road, Wiscasset, ME 04578 H: (207) 882-9794 Email: prines@wiscasset.net	December 4, 2002 Term expires the first Wednesday in December of even numbered years	State of Maine
	Seat 11	Appt. by Speaker of the House. Belonging to Political Party holding the largest number of seats in the House

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## APPENDIX C: ACORWD LIST OF APPOINTMENTS (cont.)

Status/Name	Termination Date	Representing
<b>Rep. William R. Savage</b> Representative, State of Maine P. O. Box 417 Buxton, ME 04093 H: (207) 727-4516 B: (207) 774-3949 Email: <a href="mailto:RepBill.Savage@state.me.us">RepBill.Savage@state.me.us</a>	December 4, 2002 Term expires the first Wednesday in December of even numbered years  Seat 12	State of Maine Appt. by Speaker of the House. Belonging to Political Party holding the largest number of seats in the House.
<b>Ron Ouellette</b> Physics Consultants INC P.O. Box 6749 158 Woodford St. Portland, ME 04103 Tel: (207) 773-1313 v-mail: 872-1453 email: <a href="mailto:ron.roulette@mainegeneral.org">ron.roulette@mainegeneral.org</a>	December 31, 2001 (reappointing) Term expires Dec 31 <sup>st</sup> of odd numbered years.  Seat 13	Public Member with knowledge of and interest in the management of radioactive materials and waste.  Appt. by Governor
<b>Richard Carey</b> PO Box 474 Belgrade, ME 04917 H: (207) 495-3333	December 31, 2002 Term expires Dec 31 <sup>st</sup> of even numbered years.  Seat 14	Public Member with knowledge of and interest in the management of radioactive materials and waste.  Appt. by Governor
<b>Stephen Jarrett</b> P.O. Box 383 Wiscasset, Maine 04578 email: <a href="mailto:smj@ceimaine.org">smj@ceimaine.org</a>	December 31, 2001 Term expires December 31 <sup>st</sup> of odd numbered years  Seat 15	Public member with Knowledge of and interest in the management of radioactive materials and waste.  Appt. by Senate President
<b>James Mitchell</b> 52 Birch Point Road Freeport, Maine 04332 email: <a href="mailto:jmitch8564@aol.com">jmitch8564@aol.com</a>	December 31, 2002 (reappointing) Term expires December 31 <sup>st</sup> of even numbered years  Seat 16	Public Member with Knowledge of and interest in the management of radioactive materials and waste  Appt. by Speaker of the House
<b>Don Hudson, Ph.D.</b> Chewonki Foundation 485 Chewonki Neck Road Wiscasset, ME 04579 e-mail: <a href="mailto:dhudson@chewonki.org">dhudson@chewonki.org</a>	December 31, 2002 Term expires December 31 <sup>st</sup> of even numbered years  Seat 17	Representing Environmental Advocacy Organization  Appt. by Speaker of the House